

09C8 Week 4 – Esther

Esther 8:1-17 – Esther’s renewed plea brings results

Esther 8:1-2 runs parallel to 3:9-15

- 8:1 // 3:9 – Haman pays for execution of Jews, Esther gets Haman’s estate
- 2:10, 20 – reverses the secrecy of Jewish identity held by Mordecai and Esther (also in 8:6)
- 6:1 – Haman came “that night” to approach the king for the first edict, Mordecai comes “that day”
- 3:10 – Giving Mordecai the king’s signet ring
- 8:8 // 3:11 – “As you see fit”
- 8:11 // 3:13 – “destroy, kill and annihilate”
- 8:14 // 3:15 – couriers ride out quickly
- 8:15 // 4:1 – torn garments and fasting vs. royal robes and celebration
- 8:15 // 3:15 – Susa’s response in joy vs. confusion
- 8:16 // 4:3 – light, joy, happiness, and honor vs. mourning, fasting, weeping, and wailing

Observations

- King grants Esther the least important items that she did not request, but fails to offer her the one thing she did request
- The feast of Haman and Xerxes after the 1st edict in 3:12-15 is replaced by the celebration of all Jews in 9:20-23
- 6:11-13 proves to be an omen, a premonition of 8:15. The temporary has become permanent
- 8:17 “identified with the Jews” → reflects on the hiddenness of being Jewish in 2:10ff

Esther 9:1-32 – the fateful Three days

(1-19) Jews defeat Persians

- The reverse occurred (9:1)
- Haman’s boast of sons (5:11) is now undone with the killing of the ten sons (9:7-10)
- 75,000 enemies of the Jews are killed on one day (13th of Adar)
- 14th of Adar – feasting and joy
- 15th of Adar – feasting in Susa

(20-32) Festival of Purim

- Celebrated 14-15th of Adar
- Exchange presents of food and gifts to the poor

Esther 10:1-3 – The greatness of Ahasuerus and Mordecai

- The imposition of tribute forms the reversal of the “remission” noted in 2:18
- The distribution of gifts in 2:18 is now replaced by the exchange of gifts 9:32

Literary Structures of Esther

Ten Banquets

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| 1). | 1:2 – Xerxes banquet for nobles |
| 2). | 1:5 – Xerxes banquet for all the men of Susa |
| 3). | 1:9 – Vashti’s banquet for the women |
| 4). | 2:18 – Esther’s enthronement banquet |
| 5). | 3:15 – Haman & Xerxes banquet |
| 6). | 5:1f – Esther’s first banquet with Xerxes & Haman |
| 7). | 7:1f – Esther’s second banquet with Xerxes & Haman |
| 8). | 8:17 – Jews feast to celebrate Mordecai’s elevation |
| 9). | 9:17f – first feast of Purim (in rural areas) |
| 10). | 9:18 – second feast of Purim (in Susa) |

Xiasm

Greatness of Xerxes (1:1-8)	Greatness of Mordecai (10:1-3)
Two banquets of Persians (1:1-8)	Two Banquets of the Jews (9:20-32)
Esther Identifies as a Gentile (2:10-20)	Gentiles identify as Jews (8:17)
Elevation of Haman (3:1)	Elevation of Mordecai (8:15)
Anti-Jewish Edict (3:12-15)	Pro-Jewish Edict (8:9-14)
Fateful exchange of Mordecai and Esther (ch 4)	Fateful exchange of Xerxes and Esther (7:1-6)
First banquet of Esther, Haman, Xerxes (5:6f)	Second Banquet of Esther, Haman, Xerxes (7:1-6)
Royal Procession Honoring Mordecai (ch 6)	